

February 2, 2016
5:30 PM

The City Council of the City of Inverness met on the above date in Regular Session at 212 W. Main Street with the following members present:

President Hepfer
Vice President Ryan
Councilwoman Bega
Councilman McBride
Councilman Hinkle
Mayor Plaisted

Also present were City Manager DiGiovanni, City Attorney Haag, Asst. City Manager Williams, Community Development Director Day, Interim Public Works Director McCulloch, Finance Director Chiodo, Deputy Clerk Jackson and City Clerk Davis.

The Invocation was given by Mayor Plaisted and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the City Council.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilman McBride motioned to accept the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilman Ryan. The motioned carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Randy Oliver, Co Administer addressed City Council re: CRA payment confusion. County received the corrected invoice on January 13, and paid \$361,072 of that invoice. Eleven of the property owners within the CRA district elected to exercise their right under Florida law to contest their assessments and not pay their tax bills. They have until the value adjustment board makes a determination, or till March 31 to make a good-faith payment, and County will adjust at that time. He stated that in good conscience he can't use the tax money from property owners in the County to pay taxes that have not been paid by other people, being in excess of \$500,000. Mr. Oliver suggested that the City Manager have the City Attorney contact Denise Lyn, the County Attorney, if there were questions that this was being handled incorrectly.

Chris Loyd, Lecanto resident stated how encouraged he was with City Manager's idea regarding the Phosphate Tour and an application for a small grant. He spoke of a meeting with various representatives from the counties involved and the tourist development has recent formal rules for applying for grants with their organization.

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

6)a) Employee Recognition – Council President Hepfer presented Certificates of Recognition to the following employees: Cheryl Chiodo, Finance Director (5yrs); Patricia

Nicholas, Staff Asst. (10 yrs); Robert Strader, Satellite Parks (10yrs); Sheila Densmore, Executive Secretary/Human Resources Coordinator (15yrs) of service.

MAYOR'S LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

None

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 01/19/16*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- c) Proclamation – “Engineers Week”*
 - Recommendation – Approval

Councilman Hinkle motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

10)a) Inverness Events and Visitor Bureau (IEVB)- Visit Florida Grant Program

City Manager advised we were preparing a submittal for a 50/50 match grant through Visit Florida Grant Program to be used to promote the Cultural, Heritage, Rural and Nature (CHRN) Marketing Program Grant opportunity, known as the Phosphate Trail Marketing Campaign. This represents a four community initiative that spans three counties and directly touches Dunnellon, Inverness, Floral City and Brooksville. The goal is to achieve professional branded brochures and website for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 15, 2017. Inverness leads this initiative and if awarded the \$10,000 grant is a combination of Visit Florida and City Funds of \$5,000 each. He spoke to the history of phosphate in the three counties and how the Withlacoochee Trail has already brought recognition to this area. This will also encourage people to come to this area of the state.

Councilman McBride questioned when we get the \$10,000 how it would be used if it is awarded. City Manager related it to brochure development, a website, and maybe further contact with other domains. Councilman McBride spoke to the city's contribution to bed taxes and it would be nice for the TDC to allow us to have some of those funds.

Council McBride motioned to support the submittal to secure funding through the Visit Florida Grant Program. Seconded by Councilman Ryan. The motion carried unanimously.

10)b) Sweetwater Point Assessment Program Engineering Services City Manager DiGiovanni addresses the issue noting that enclosed is a contract and scope of services to provide the required engineering services. H & B Consulting Engineers, Incorporated was responsible for developing the initial cost estimated to the resident in the county balloting process. The contract outlines a cost base of \$24,250 for the required general engineering services to commence and accomplish the project. Most items are ironed out

and close moving forward in the next few months. Until assessment program is in place, we wish to be transparent and have Council sign the engineering agreement.

Councilman McBride clarified that it is within the assessment process that the City will recoup the initial base cost.

Councilman Hinkle motion to approve the contract for Engineering Services with H & B Consulting Engineers, Inc. and authorize the Council President to execute the document. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried unanimously.

10)c) Financial Consultant – City Manager explained how a Financial Consultant would better prepare this community in the event of future purchases. As we move forward with the expanded CRA, planning, development of concept programs, and identifying large projects are being discussed. We are not at point of publicly vetting plans, but know they will be large and there will be a desire to borrow money to make these projects happen. An agreement with this consulting firm will bring the necessary services where recommendations will be made with a clear understanding. We previously did this with IGC building, which was paid off in approx. 5 years. He spoke of improvements to the Godowski property, around the hospital, creating bicycle connector to Forest Dr. and industrial area of the city. Once plans are done they will generate a need for additional funding, and he addressed the potential costs.

Mr. Jeff Larson, President of Larson Consulting Services, provided company background and noted how City is well run and financially strong. He noted they represent the State of Florida and enjoys working with progressive communities and staff. General fund projects or enterprise project are each very different and discussed different options of financing, etc. This is a great opportunity with a strong foundation to consider future projects. **Councilman Ryan motioned to authorize the City Manager execute the Agreement with Larson Consulting Services for Financial Analysis Services. Seconded by Councilman Hinkle. The motion carried unanimously.**

10)d) Impact Fees – Interlocal Agreement was addressed by City Manager DiGiovanni who explained that each agency involved has adopted an independent Impact Fee program with some cross-over. There are fees collected the City for the County and transportation fees enacted by the City are used in the City. Community Development doesn't stop at the border, and as we know the economy of Inverness is broad. The enclosed agreement has been developed by an interactive meeting of all parties. It has been reviewed in full by City Staff and Legal Counsel and is ready for City Council adoption.

Councilwoman Bega questioned if there was a temporary moratorium on these fees, with the City Manager stating that the City has not done that, but the County has suspended their impact fee program. He stated that improvements need to be funded, and this is the way to do it.

Councilman Hinkle motioned to accept the conditional aspects of the Inter-Local Impact Fee Agreement and authorize the City Council President to execute the document. Seconded by Councilman McBride. The motion carried unanimously.

10)e) Interlocal Agreement – Fire Service (Mutual Aid) was addressed by City Manager DiGiovanni and noted that the attached Agreement is mostly final and formatted by the

Sheriff's Office for execution by the Sheriff. The City's signature page will follow normal channels. The document was reviewed by the City Fire Chief, City Legal Counsel, and the Administrative Office. The wording is suitable, however, the area served by the City Department is funded by and primarily for the municipality. We will respond beyond municipal limits in emergency situations, but not as a matter of routine, the application of any mutual aid program is not parochial, but flexibly determined at the moment of need. He asked that Council review and offer comments on what they may believe appropriate and necessary.

He noted that Senator Dean is sponsoring a bill that recognizes that the Citrus County population shouldn't be in the same category with larger communities. His bill encourages volunteerism. If his bill passes, some language in the agreement will need to be modified to meet the standards put in place. This is brought forward for comment, but no action is required at this time.

It was discussed that in absence of an agreement, if an emergency situation arises, we will respond. The Fire Chiefs and dispatch will make those calls, but it will need to be reasonable.

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the following:

- Inverness Little League's opening day is Feb. 27 and the concession stand sign will be dedicated in honor of Joe Silvestro.
- Leadership Summit meeting is available on CD rom recording in the agenda packet and is time stamped.
- Valerie Theatre's Saturday evening performances added to the WOW factor, not only the performance, but the building itself.
- Spoke to what Mr. Oliver mentioned previously, but there are court tested State Statues that exists and the statutory provisions need to prevail. Contact will be made with the County Administrator to make sure that we at least have conversation. The CRA board is very much involved, and we will be bringing information to them. We are interpreting the statutes based on the court cases that have been referenced.
- Continuing work with CGI of Rochester to create 8 videos promote the many venues of Inverness and Citrus County.
- Soldier Memorial Project concepts are being finalized and hope to make presentation next month.
- Godowski property project has Marc Black making sure of the integrity of buildings, etc. The concept is to add parking, open visibility of lake and future investment of small business, and interactive with cycling, etc.
- Illumination of downtown trees continues and looking at installing bollards at angle parking regarding café dining safety.
- Zephyr Street commencement issued and ground breaking next week.
- Ribbon cutting for Fire Dept. this Friday. Commended County staff working on mold situation and moving positively.
- Highland Blvd. plans are mostly complete.
- Community Garden program presentation to City Council is in discussion.
- Bicycle friendly sharrow installation is moving forward over next 60 days.

- Cooter Pond boardwalk being evaluated to improve stability before reopening, with the LED lighting event.
- Budget development is progressing.
- Fire Department started 12:00am Monday, and incredible to see. The building, built in 1962, needs updating and we are looking at the elevation, roof, grounds, etc. and will develop conceptual plans as to how the structure should present itself. Conceptuals will hopefully be available in approx. 6 months.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Councilman McBride spoke to the Valerie Theatre Swing Band event and it was extremely entertaining and Theatre itself is wonderful as we bring cultural aspects to this City. Attended the summit meeting, and many interesting topics came up, to include home rule, Fire, Police, tourism, Whispering Pines Park, etc. Kudos to City administration and Chief Joe Campfield in putting this Fire Dept in place.

Mayor Plaisted expressed appreciation to Mr. Oliver as County Administrator coming to our Council meeting. Questioned if the promotional videos will address volunteerism, and when will FDOT project be finished. City Manager stated approximately 6 months. Spoke of grant money for phosphate trail and why historical society doesn't take advantage of that for tourism. Spoke of three new restaurants in Inverness, and is excited about progress on shopping plaza across the street. Rotary has a great partnership with the City. Noted the wonderful Swing Band and about the Crosswinds movie coming to theatre with events at Courthouse. Kudos to Allen Forino.

Councilman Ryan attended the DAR Plaque dedication and the historical information was interesting. Went by the Fire Dept. and interesting to have our trucks in there and looking forward to ribbon cutting. Commended the City employees.

Councilwoman Bega stated the general first impression of government is that they are slow. She cannot say that about our government and how our City is so aggressive and progressive. Her class reunion will be held at the Valerie. Spoke to Mr. Oliver and how the County work with us.

Councilman Hinkle spoke highly of City staff and so many things being accomplished, such as elections, interlocal agreement (positive) medical community, etc.

Council President Hepfer attended the Valerie Theatre matinee. Spoke to music she grew up with and noted how talented the band was. Attended the Summit meeting last Thursday and experienced cooperation and good will come out of it. Spoke to various happenings and touring HCA heart section and it's good time to be a part of the City.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Karen Esty, Inverness is now working on animal control and spoke of Crimestoppers for Animals, it is up to us to step forward, and left information to possibly add to website. Spoke of protesting hydraulic fracking. Stated the wrought iron fence around monuments at the old courthouse will be nice when finished.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm

City Clerk

Council President